



Greetings FHI Stakeholders!

See below for updates, announcements, and save the dates from the Family Homelessness Initiative.

INITIATIVE NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

FHI ADVISORY GROUP:

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be November 12th when the Advisory Group will be reviewing and providing input on the CEH System Performance Targets for 2015, specifically the additional project types (permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing and prevention), and reviewing preliminary information (key findings and input from the community forum) from Focus Strategies on the coordinated entry analysis and refinement process. The Advisory Group will hold an additional meeting in December to review, discuss, and provide guidance on the draft recommendations.

Visit the [FHI website](#) for information on the Charter, membership roster, meeting agendas and meeting summaries.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES - NEWS & UPDATES:

Coordinated Entry Consultant Update

Katharine Gale of Focus Strategies, our CEA system consultant, convened over 150 community stakeholders on November 6 to share key findings from the system analysis, present information on other system models, and hear additional input around three specific areas – **Assessment: access and process, Prioritization and matching criteria**, and **Reducing entry barriers**. We had a great turnout and have already heard positive feedback. In addition to the community forum, Katharine met with the CEH Funders Group and CCS leadership during this visit.

Key upcoming dates:

- First week of December – Draft report sent to the Family Homelessness Advisory Group and posted on our website
- December 10th – Consultant meets with Advisory Group to review draft report
- January 2015 – Consultant presents final report and recommendations to the IAC for discussion

You can find materials from the community meetings as well as regular updates on key dates on our [website](#). If you have any questions about the process, please feel to contact Michelle Valdez at michelle.valdez@cehkc.org.

System Realignment Work

FHI staff and local funders are continuing to work with the first group of agencies participating in realignment. This next phase of work, the project analysis process, includes a series of actions aimed to:

- 1) Analyze each project's funding and capital investments to determine where opportunities and barriers to realignment exist;
- 2) Identify the permanent housing model to which each agency will realign (agencies may determine more than one model is preferred);
- 3) Assess the viability of a project's realignment; and
- 4) Identify policy and regulatory barriers to realignment informing coordination needed with local, state, and/or federal funding partners.

If you are not part of the first group of agencies undertaking realignment but are considering shifts within your agency, we would love to hear from you! We are interested in learning about your experience and are happy to provide support as needed. We are committed to understanding the scope of changes occurring in the system, therefore it will be very helpful to know if your program is considering making any changes as we plan for future efforts.

Learning Circles

Last month, Building Changes and Initiative staff attended the Peer Learning Group for managers of family homelessness programs. The group discussed current challenges, realignment strategies, and future opportunities for peer learning at a larger scale. The group was asked to provide input on how to broaden the scope of peer learning for shelter and transitional housing programs and direct line staff. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

System Innovation Grants

We are extremely excited to share that Building Changes has approved two recent proposals submitted for Washington Families Fund System Innovation Grants. We believe these grants will be a tremendous asset to our community to support the innovative shifts local providers are undertaking. These funds will support agencies in furthering our community's efforts of making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time. The two opportunities are:

Shelter to Permanent Housing Funds

Flexible re-housing funds for shelters to support families in attaining housing quickly.

These funds can be used to assist families in directly accessing permanent housing (for families who could access housing with limited, one-time assistance) and to assist families in more immediately addressing housing barriers in order to reduce the transition time to Rapid Re-Housing (or other homeless housing) programs. Building Changes will announce additional information and the Intent to Participate for publicly funded emergency shelters in King County in the near future.

Risk Mitigation Funds

Risk Mitigation Funds will be made available to projects participating in the first phase of realignment efforts, as well as other transitional housing projects that significantly reduce screening criteria to support realignment efforts. Funds are intended to support potential challenges and/or risks associated with programmatic changes. They may be used for additional costs due to property and rental/operating losses incurred by an agency due to lengthy unit turnover (due to damages). Additional information will be forthcoming.

OTHER NEWS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING FUNDING OR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

2015 National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness – Registration is open!

February 19-20 in San Diego <http://help.endhomelessness.org/events/32>

Webinar - Working with Landlords: Engagement, Fair Housing/Landlord Tenant Law, and the Balance of Both

November 19, 2014 (10:00AM – 12:00PM)

This webinar is one of a series hosted by Building Changes, in partnership with the Washington State Department of Commerce, and developed for Ending Family Homelessness program partners and providers and Washington Families Fund service grantees to explore key approaches to helping families end their homelessness and stabilize in housing. For more information, contact Emily Mirra at Building Changes, or click [here](#) for their website.

Fair Housing Workshops offered in November & December

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m.-noon - First Steps: Best Practices to Promote Fair Housing

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Advanced Fair Housing Seminar

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Reasonable Accommodations & Modifications for Residents with Disabilities

Click [here](#) for more information.

Register Now! Faith Based Solutions to Family Homelessness: What's Next for Your Congregation?

Sunday, December 7th 2pm to 4:30pm at Seattle University; Hosted by Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry and The Church Council of Greater Seattle. [Register Here.](#)

The afternoon will consist of two sessions, with six workgroups to choose from. Topics covered will include Advocacy, Housing, Landlords, Shelters, Safe Parking, Networks, and Companionship.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Monthly FHI Stakeholder Information Session

The Family Homelessness Initiative staff host monthly information sessions on the 3rd Wednesday of the month to talk with local stakeholders (providers and funders) about the work of the Initiative. This is an opportunity to hear about current projects, what is coming up next, and to ask questions and provide input. The FHC Feedback Meetings, which are an opportunity for service providers and partners to hear updates on new policies/procedures at FHC and to provide feedback, will directly follow the Info Session each month.

The next FHI Info Session will be held on Wednesday, November 19 from 9:00-10:00am at the 2100 Building (immediately followed by the **FHC Feedback Meeting** from 10:00-11:00am)

Topic: Initiative updates and discussion on Shelter to Housing System Innovation Grant.

Contact Triina Tennelo at triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov or visit the Initiative website for more information on the Info Session or Emily Harris-Shears at EmilyHS@ccsww.org for more information on the FHC Feedback Meetings.

CONTACT US

If you have questions about any of the above updates, or if you would like to add any announcements to future monthly emails, you can contact Michelle Valdez at michelle.valdez@cehkc.org.

Please feel free to contact FHI staff for more information:

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Visit our website to learn more about the Family Homelessness Initiative or to locate any of the documents referenced in this email at www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness.

For more information on the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) or to see the most recent monthly newsletter, go to the website at www.cehkc.org